

## House Republican Press Release

June 8, 2004  
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### **State Rep. Toni Boucher's Remarks On the Retirement of Supt. David Clune**



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On the Retirement of Supt. David Clune  
Delivered June 8, 2004

Thank you Dona and Ellen for making this day possible.

We are all driven by our beliefs. When reflecting on my own I am reminded of my father. He was a very poor and uneducated man but he repeated this to me everyday. "Education is everything. It is the way out of poverty and the path to freedom". He certainly made a true believer out of me.

Each time I read this inscription I am reminded of Dave Clune

"What nobler profession than to touch the next generation- to see children hold your understanding in their eyes, your hope in their lives, your world in their hands. In their success you will find your own and so to them you give your all."

It a tremendous honor and a pleasure for me to join with you and Wilton in honoring and celebrating Dave Clune and his family's 22 wonderful years of service to our school system and our town.

At this time I would also like to recognize Dona Wascom, John Benson and board of education members past and present for the great service and a job well done during these difficult recessionary years. I remember only too well as a former board chair how difficult it is to navigate the school system through very troubled waters during the devastating recession of early 90's.

We each had to weather it once Dona but Dave has sailed through both down turns and brought our ship home safely through it all.

I am wearing a few hats this afternoon, yes I do bring official congratulations and thanks from the state of Connecticut as the School's and the Town's Representative. But, I also bring the gratitude of those of us who previously worked very closely with Dave as former PTA Members and as former Wilton Board of Ed Members, many of which are also here today.

It is no secret that a superintendent's job can be difficult and full of controversy. There are fewer in the business every year.

Dave ... We know the hours you keep, those 3 and 4 am drives around town to see if the roads will be safe after a terrible snow storm, the endless negotiation sessions that last until the wee hours of the night or the difficult family interventions you quietly and successfully mediated, preventing a potential crisis in our schools.

You may all think that this year's new start times have played havoc with the bus schedule. Well my first year on the Board of Ed in 1987, Dave decided that it would be in the best interest of kids to lengthen the school day by 20 minutes. You would have thought the world had come to an end and that Dave was the malevolent mastermind. Dave's courage and character when advocating for the best interest of students won the day and we now the better for it.

We also know that having a fine tuned sense of humor has added greatly to his longevity.

Along with so many, our family has been fortunate to know the Clune family on a very personal level as our children grew up together over the last 20 years. You all know their work with the ABC kids, Operation Smile and personally training guide dogs for the blind. That is just an outward expression of the deeper values that have been cultivated and instilled in this very special family.

As we look around our world today, is that not what it all boils down to... Moral Character and Ethics, caring for each other.

Without these principals and beliefs soundly rooted in our children- our community of Wilton, our state of CT and our country will not continue to sustain.

One very wise man, Albert Einstein said it best" Setting an example is not the main means of influencing another it is the only means"

That is what I most admire about Dave and MaryLynn Clune. They live and model these principles very day.

I have a special gift for the amazing strength behind the man. Mary Lynn please accept this pin with our appreciation and affection.

Dave, although Gary may be taking over your position, we all know that you are not replaceable. You are the rarest of people. You have an affinity for and compassion for every type of person you meet, an uncanny ability to read, understand and care for people. More than that- your are sincere and heartfelt in the manner in which you interact with all of us. It will be difficult not having your warmth and moral support on a daily basis throughout our schools but I get the sense that your spirit will be felt up and down our school corridors for years to come.

So that you will remember the bilingual education you received as superintendent in Wilton- speaking in both English and Bus a memento to wear in your new office .....

Our sadness at Dave's retirement from our schools is balanced by the great elation we feel in that he and Mary Lynn will continue to reside in Wilton as our neighbors and friends. Thank you Robin and Dave, Jr. for moving back to Wilton and cementing the deal. You know they say that God works in mysterious ways- just as Mary Elizabeth is leaving for college, their new granddaughter Drew decided to arrive just in time to help wipe that tear that we all feel when our last child leaves the nest. Welcome to the most delightful club in town Dave. You will be putty in her hands in no time one.

What a gift, what a blessing. Wilton, take pride in creating and maintaining a community that your superintendent and his family are motivated to stay in, even after retirement. In Gary Richards's case to move back to. This is a very rare occurrence indeed.

Bottom line Dave:

Thank you for your tireless efforts on behalf of us and our students. It has been an honor and privilege to serve with someone of your caliber. We feel truly fortunate to have you and your family as members of our community and hope you will grow in number and will be with us for many years to come.

A message from Commissioner of Education for the State of Connecticut Betty Sternberg.

Message from the CT General assembly...

Finally a proclamation from the State of Connecticut... making today, Sunday, June 6<sup>th</sup> Superintendent Dr. Dave Clune Day in the State of Connecticut.